

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments and reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments above and the remarks below. Claims 6, 26, and 38 have been amended, and claims 6-10 and 26-40 remain pending in the application. Claims 6, 26, and 38 are independent claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments above do not present any new issues and place the claims in condition for immediate allowance, and should, therefore, be entered without objection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 6-10, 26-28, 30, and 33-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,184,319 to Kramer (hereinafter "*Kramer*"). Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is moot in view of the above claim amendments.

Although Applicants do not acquiesce to the Examiner's expansive reading of *Kramer*, for the sake of administrative convenience, Applicants have amended the claims. Applicants reserve, however, the right to pursue claims of broader scope in the future.

Claim 6, as amended, recites an apparatus, including a deformable member and a tendon, which is configured to displace a first end of the deformable member relative to the second end of the deformable member. The deformable member has a first end, a second end, and an intermediate portion. The intermediate portion of the deformable member has a contact side and a non-contact side. The contact side of the intermediate portion of the deformable member is configured to output a haptic sensation. The non-contact side of the intermediate portion is "***disposed between the contact side of the intermediate portion and the tendon.***"

Kramer does not disclose a deformable member with an intermediate portion having a contact side and a non-contact side opposite the contact side, where the contact side is configured to output a haptic sensation and the non-contact side is "***disposed between the contact side ... and the tendon,***" as recited in claim 6. *Kramer* also does not disclose a means for moving "***positioned such that the non-contact surface is disposed between the means for moving and the contact surface,***" as recited in claim 26. *Kramer* also does not disclose a "***forcing***

mechanism including a non-contact surface disposed between the contact surface of the forcing mechanism and an actuator,” as recited in claim 38.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 6, 26, and 38. Additionally, based at least on their dependence from claims 6, 26, or 38, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7-10, 27, 28, 30, 33-37, 39, and 40.

Applicants note that, although only the independent claims have been addressed above, several of the dependent claims also present features not found in the references of record, which may present independent grounds of patentability.

For example, *Kramer* fails to disclose the threaded rod recited in claim 30, which the Examiner inexplicably asserts is shown by the tendon 520 shown in Fig. 5A of *Kramer*. *Kramer* does not, however, disclose that this tendon 520 is a threaded rod. For another example, *Kramer* fails to disclose the inflatable member recited in claim 33, which the Examiner inexplicably asserts is shown by the tendon 500 of *Kramer*. For yet another example, *Kramer* fails to disclose the multi-point contact surface recited in claim 34, which the Examiner inexplicably asserts is disclosed by Fig. 5E. Careful inspection of Fig. 5E, however, does not reveal how this figure discloses the claimed multi-point contact surface.

Thus, Applicants request that the rejections of these dependent claims, and of other dependent claims having similarly patentably distinct features be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 29, 31, and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kramer* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,354,162 to Burdea et al. (hereinafter “*Burdea*”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

As discussed above, independent claim 26 is patentable over *Kramer*. *Burdea* adds nothing to *Kramer* with respect to claim 26. Thus, independent claim 26 is patentable over *Kramer* considered with *Burdea*, and claims 29-31 are patentable based at least on their dependence from claim 26.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 29, 31, and 32 for at least the reasons set forth above.

Conclusion

All rejections having been addressed, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicit a Notice of Allowance, which is believed to be in order. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this communication, or the application in general, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at 703-456-8108.

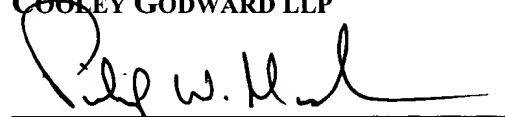
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17, and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1283.

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